

## Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 R

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EA/ANP:MR WAJDA

D/HA:MR WILSON

----- 130678

P R 241304Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

CINCPAC

JCRC BARBERS POINT HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237068

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: HANOI PRISONER REPORT

REF: A) BANGKOK 26332; B) VIENTIANE 1737 ET SEQ. (NOTAL)

1. SUGGEST CANBERRA AND VIENTIANE INFORM AUSTRALIANS OF  
ARLO GAY'S EXPERIENCE AS RECOUNTED PARA FIVE REF A. WE  
AGREE THIS PROBABLY EXPLAINS THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT (REF B).

2. AT SAME TIME, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF RECENT  
WORD ON TUCKER GOUGELMANN. LAST DEFINITE REPORTS WE HAVE  
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ON HIM ARE A LATE 1975 REPORTED SIGHTING IN CHI HOA

PRISON, A SEPTEMBER, 1975 REPORT THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO CHI HOA, AND THE JULY 24, 1975 SIGHTING OF TUCKER AT THE EMIGRATION OFFICE IN SAIGON. MORE RECENTLY WE ARE AWARE OF UNSOURCED REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO HANOI, WHICH WOULD ACCORD WITH GAY'S EXPERIENCE. (WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT SIGNIFICANT THAT GAY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOUGELMANN. FROM PREVIOUS POW EXPERIENCES WE KNOW THE VIETNAMESE OFTEN HOLD US PRISONERS FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT THEIR BEING AWARE OF EACH OTHER, SOMETIMES IN THE SAME PRISONER FACILITY.)

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO ON GOUGELMANN FROM ANY OF THE RECENT RETURNEES, IN PARTICULAR ANY REPORTED SIGHTING OF HIM IN VIETNAM AFTER APRIL, 1975. THE 1975 REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE ALL CAME FROM THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS, AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE INFO FROM AMCITS AS WELL.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR AND ICRS REPS, POSTS SHOULD REAFFIRM OUR CONCERN ABOUT GOUGELMANN, WHO NOW APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY AMERICAN IMPRISONED IN VIETNAM. AUSTRALIANS MIGHT ALSO BE INFORMED AS APPROPRIATE OF OUR CONTINUED CONCERN.

5. IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS IDENTIFYING GOUGELMANN AS A CIA AGENT IN VIETNAM. AT DISCRETION POSTS SHOULD POINT OUT THAT GOUGELMANN HAD SERVED WITH US GOVERNMENT IN VIETNAM FROM 1962-66 AND 1969-71 AND RETIRED IN JANUARY, 1972. AFTER HIS RETIREMENT HE WAS IN PRIVATE BUSINESS IN BANGKOK AND HAD NO FURTHER CONNECTION WITH USG. HE RETURNED TO VIETNAM IN APRIL, 1975 IN A LAST-MINUTE EFFORT TO GET HIS ADOPTED CHILDREN OUT OF VIETNAM. IT CAN BE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT MR. GOUGELMANN HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE CIA WHEN HE RETURNED TO VIETNAM IN 1975, AND THAT HIS ONLY REASON FOR GOING THERE WAS TO ASSIST THE CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHER, AND TO WIND UP THE AFFAIRS OF THE PRIVATE BUSINESS WITH WHICH HE WAS ASSOCIATED IN BANGKOK. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS CITED IN PARA TWO ABOVE, GOUGELMANN WAS APPARENTLY ARRESTED SOMETIME AFTER JULY, 1975 AND MAY NOW BE HELD IN HANOI. HIS FAMILY AND PERSONAL FIRENDS HAVE GROWN  
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INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIM, AND WE HAVE HAD RECENT CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES AS WELL. ANY EFFORTS WHICH POSTS CAN MAKE ON HIS BEHALF WILL BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE237068  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN DPW  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK 26332, 76 VIENTIANE 1737  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HANOI PRISONER REPORT  
**TAGS:** CASC, US, VN, (GAY, ARLO), (GOUGELMANN, TUCKER)  
**To:** CANBERRA VIENTIANE BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006